

Summary of the Friday Sermon Delivered by Hazrat Mirza Tahir Ahmad - Khalifatul Masih IV. On 7th March 1997

And the servants of the Lord of Grace are those who walk on the Earth in a dignified manner and when the ignorant accost them they respond with 'Peace!'

And spend their night before their Lord bowed and standing.

And entreat 'Our Lord! Avert from us the punishment of Hell; for the punishment thereof is a heavy torment ongoing.'

'It is indeed evil to reside in and as a dwelling-place.'

And those who when they spend are neither extravagant nor niggardly but moderate in between.

And those who never invoke any other God along with Allah nor kill any person that Allah has sanctified except justly nor commit fornication, for whoever does that shall meet with the punishment of sin.

It will be intensified for them on the Day of Resurrection and they will abide therein disgraced.

Except those who repent and believe and act righteously for as to these Allah will change their evil deeds into good ones; for Allah is the Most Forgiving the Merciful.

And who repent and do good and always turn to Allah in repentance.

And who bear not false testimony, and when they pass by anything vain they pass on with dignity.

And who when they are reminded of the Signs of their Lord fall not deaf and blind thereat.

And who say 'Our Lord! Grant us of our spouses and children the delight of the eyes and make each of us a model for the righteous.

So they are the ones who will be rewarded with lofty mansions because they were steadfast and they will be welcomed therein with greetings and salutations of peace.

Abiding therein. Excellent it is as a place of rest and as an abode.

Say 'But for your prayer my Lord would not care for you. Surely you have rejected and that is what would cleave unto you now.'

The Holy Quran. al-Furqan [The Criterion]: 64 - 78.

The subject of repentance and inclining towards God is being mentioned from the last few sermons with reference to 'Say 'O My servants who have committed excesses against your own selves! Despair not of the mercy of Allah'¹ the final result of which has been mentioned as Allah having the power to do away with all sins altogether and that if He accepts your repentance you would be showered with endless bounties and mercies. *The Holy Quran* uses the expression of *Servants of the Gracious* for such men as have been mentioned in this verse which says 'Say 'O My servants! Despair not of the mercy of Allah.' It is extremely important and essential to show perfect humility and meekness and to avoid harming others in order to partake of the mercy of Allah. If one is humble for the sake of God then He would certainly grant respect and include one among His people.

¹ Say 'O My servants who have committed excesses against your own selves! Despair not of the mercy of Allah, verily Allah forgives all sins. Assuredly He is Most Forgiving and Merciful.'

The Holy Quran. al-Zumar [The Throngs]: 54.

Having addressed the 'Servants of Lord of Grace' it is also mentioned that if any common man is undignified its influence is confined to himself but if a man of the Lord of Grace is undignified people point fingers at him so firstly one should begin to examine oneself as to whether one serves to taint the name of the Gracious God and whether in this relation one spends their time in extreme humility and meekness taking care not to be a cause of shame to one's Lord and Master. Such people become heralds of peace in the name of God. For those who walk thus in humility during the day never sleep without a care in the world at night because during the nights when nobody watches them the servants of the Lord of Grace stand and pass their time in worship. So it is clearly evident that they bow towards the world not out of cowardice or disgrace but due to their bond with the Lord of Grace.

In view of the capabilities of fear and trembling that exist in human nature *The Holy Quran* addresses mankind and reforms them by promising them Paradise and by instilling fear into them. Belief in mentioned after repentance in 'Except those who repent and believe and act righteously' which reveals that such people prove the truth of their faith by repenting. So the reformation of your faith is important and that would come from true repentance. Then the belief you would have would lead you to 'act righteously'. These are the people about whom it is said that Allah would turn their misdeeds into acts of kindness.

Certain signs would appear as a result of true repentance for example that they would never even consider telling a lie and when they pass by any frivolity they pass on كرامًا ['with dignity']. One meaning of 'bear not false testimony' as well as the literal one is that they never approach Shirk [affiliating partners with God].

When you turn away from the frivolities you would become interested in Godly things and when you become intrigued by godly things your faces would progressively turn away from the frivolous. This is the usual criterion of whether you are becoming servants of the Lord of Grace or not and every person observes and knows these things in their everyday lives. If Allah the Almighty wills this subject would also continue into the next sermon.